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THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1905.

The cow and the separator are to solve the problem of the Sand Hills, and the sooner these combined forces begin to operate, the sooner will the problem be solved.—Western Rancher.

Capital

"If I only had capital," we head a young man say, as he puffed away at a 10 cent cigar, "I would do something."

"If I only had capital," said another, as he walked away from a dram-shop where he had just paid ten cents for a drink, "I would go into business."

The same remark might have been heard from the young man loafing on the street corner. Young man with the cigar, you are smoking away your capital. You from the dram shop are drinking yours and destroying your body at the same time; and you upon the street corner are wasting yours in idleness and forming bad habits. Dimes make dollars. Time is money. Don't wait for a fortune to begin with. If you had \$10,000 a year and spent it all you would be poor still. Our men of power and influence did not start with fortunes. You, too, can make your mark, if you will. But you must stop spending your money for what you don't need, and squandering your time in idleness.—Ex.

Hazing

A friend sends us the following: "Henry Frank, at the Metropolitan Independent Church, in Carnegie Lyceum, yesterday alluded to recent college hazing outrages, calling them instances of 'Modern Barbarism in Civilization.'" He said in part:

Hazing is the only prevalent curse of our American universities. But perhaps never has hazing been carried to such extreme cruelties and savage barbarism as in California. A young man, after having been maltreated in many ways, none of which seemed to gratify the atrocious appetites of the callow barbarians who tortured him, was finally subjected to the electrical chair, his body stripped and strapped to the cruel device that would have done to Torquemada, and kept there for several hours while swift currents of electricity were sent rushing through his frame, from which he was released only after his limbs had become totally paralyzed. He was left a confirmed cripple for life. What avails it that the criminals will be prosecuted at law? That cannot restore to the ill-fated student the use of his limbs or the normal poise of his shattered mind. If punishment was ever justified, none too severe could be conceived for these civilized monsters who pose as students of refined arts."—Ainsworth Star-Journal.

Garfield Reports On The Beef Trust.

The Beef Trust inquiry is a thing of the past. "The Big Six" has been found by the highest authority not to be over capitalized and to be selling dressed meats at a small gross profit. The investigation also discloses that there is a very active competition all along the line and that in 1903

the packers known as the "Beef Trust" only slaughtered 45 per cent of the cattle of the country. It is found however that "The Big Six" slaughtered 98 per cent of the cattle killed in Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Fort Worth, Sioux City and St. Paul, as well as a large per cent in all the large eastern cities. There seems to be no finding as to the trust restraining or controlling trade. It may be possible that the bureau of commerce may not be able to find a conspiracy in restraint of trade. It may be that the packers are selling dressed meat at a small gross profit, but it will take a higher authority than the most honorable commission to convince the people that \$3 cattle and 16 cent beef are coincident with unrestrained trade and legitimate profits. It is found that this combination slaughtered in 1903, 5,521,000 head of cattle and that they made a profit above the by-products of 99 cents a head. Ninety-nine cents a head would bring to them a clear profit of \$5,467,770. The by-products according to many statements by the packers will pay for the cost of slaughtering and give a profit to the business. The problem is one of so much hidden and unknown evidence that not even the commerce commission could get at the exact facts. The prices of cattle, and meat at the block, should not be at greater variance under our system of economical handling, than they were years ago when the greatest lack of economy prevailed. The inquiry of the commission will deceive nobody. The people have too often been treated to white washes and they will continue to investigate for themselves the same as though no investigation had been made.—Western Rancher.

THE BEEF TRUST.

St. Louis City Journal.
 If Commissioner Garfield's report means anything it means that the big packers are acquitted of the charge of gouging extortionate profits out of the consumers and the producers. There is no denying that the public will be surprised at this result. However, it is not likely that Commissioner Garfield's good faith will be questioned. The complete report will come in for searching analysis.

St. Louis City Journal.
 The beef trust points with pride to the Garfield report and rattles its hoofs in the face of the common carriers.

Norfolk, Neb., News.
 The beef trust is then really a very large hearted and philanthropic trust. It is impossible to conceive of another combination of capitalists who would slaughter beef for the people and only ask a profit of 99 cents for the job.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sentinel.
 It is not affirmed in so many words that the "big six" have been conducting their business in the interest of the public welfare, but it is clear that there is a doubt in the mind of the commissioner as to whether they have worked to the contrary. If they are not satisfied with the report they are hard to please. It will, however, be disappointing to the country.

The people know that the operations of the combine have made the cost of living higher. Everyone knows that fact who wants to know it and the tame and excusing document just considered will not change the settled conviction of the country.

Kansas City Journal.

How prone man is to err. Here the American people with practical unanimity have been imagining all these years that they were being systematically robbed by the packers combine; they even pointed to their altitudinous butchers' bills as proof of it. Although the packers assured them repeatedly that this was a mistake and that they (the packers) were in reality philanthropists seeking to do the most good to the greatest number, yet the belief still prevailed that consumers were paying 80 cents for 40 cent steaks and giving up good coin for other cuts in the same ratio.

But Mr. Garfield, secretary of the bureau of commerce and industry, has happily straightened all this out and showed the people that they were wrong—very, very wrong. He bearded the octopus in his lair and wrenched from him with great effort figures and facts proving conclusively that if it were not for a few by-products the packers would be losing a round number of dollars on every animal slaughtered. As it is they manage to squeeze out only 30 cents' profits or thereabouts on a \$50 steer, and if they happen to pay a wee small fraction of a cent too much for the animal they come out behind.

So we see that instead of the beef trust being a greedy combination formed to rob the cattle dealer at one end and the consumer at the other it is simply a humane society organized to force down prices to the consumer and encourage the live stock industry by paying dealers more than their animals are worth. Instead of railing at the altruistic packers the public should praise them unstintedly and raise popular subscriptions to aid them in their good work.

Just how consumers were enabled, before the trust was formed, to buy all kinds of meats much cheaper while the cattle and sheep and hog growers were receiving better rates for their products is neither here nor there; let the dead past bury its dead. We are living in the active, costly present and dealing with conditions as we find them. Nor is it pertinent to inquire how the big packers have managed to pile up vast fortunes while occupying their time in serving the public for nothing. Only unreasonable carpers will think of these things when they might be instructively reading Mr. Garfield's report. The important fact, officially certified, is that the beef trust is our kind and gentle friend and that we should be bad off indeed without its kindly ministrations.

Long live the benevolent beef trust, and long may the era of low cattle and high steaks continue to alleviate human suffering and bless mankind.

Brooklyn Eagle.
 The report of Secretary Garfield of the bureau of commerce and labor on the beef trust will be received with general approval. Everyone knows that the prices of beef since 1902 have been much higher than before that year and the assumption was that the beef trust was making an unusual profit. This assumption was aided by complaints from the cattle growers that they were compelled to sell their live stock for as little as before the advance in dressed beef. Now comes Mr. Garfield and shows that the six big packing firms, comically designated as "the beef trust," made a profit of only 2 per cent, and that they handled a little less than half of the dressed meat product of the country. That outcome is the more agreeable because it was clear that Mr. Garfield was disposed to make out a case against the trust

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if there were any facts to justify it. Some of the sensational papers have even quoted the president as telling Attorney General Moody to "put the packers in jail" if possible. Well, so far as revealed there are not any facts to put anybody in jail.

Farmers' Union.

World-Herald.

A number of farmers in the southern part of Hall and the north-eastern part of Adams counties have organized a local union of the American Society of Equity, an organization of farmers, the object of which is mutual protection to all classes of producers. O. B. Shafer, a resident of this county (Hall county) but whose address is Hastings, was elected president; Bart Mott, Hastings, secretary, and A. A. Stone, Hansen, treasurer. The union has a membership of twenty-five farmers. In explaining the objects of the association, President Shafer said: "We do not demand the world with all there is therein. We do ask cost of production, with a reasonable profit. We are the only class that does not set a price upon its labor. We buy at the other fellow's price and sell at what the other fellow chooses to offer. We propose to hold our produce on the farms, in granaries and in cribs, until the demand is such as will gradually absorb our products at a price which will bring the farmer the cost of production. Under the present conditions the large elevator companies and boards of trade manipulate prices in such a manner as to cause both the producers and consumers to suffer and make millions of dollars which should rightfully belong to consumer and producer, equally divided. We do not propose to antagonize other great interests, such as the Standard Oil trust, the National Harvester trust, the packing trust and the railroad combine. The prices they make are added to our cost."

Mr. Shafer is trying to organize other unions in other parts of Hall and Adams counties and the plan of the Iowa farmers' organization is followed to a large extent.

The Catholics will build a convent at Chadron costing \$10,000, expecting to lay the foundation next fall and have the school opened in September 1906.

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